

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

conducting an online auction for the communications services, the online auction conducted via a distributed computing network;

causing display of a service provider rating in a user interface that indicates whether the service provider satisfactorily provided the communications services, the service provider rating presented during a subsequent online auction to indicate that a future communications service will be satisfactorily provided by the service provider; and

causing display of a recipient rating in the user interface during the subsequent online auction in which the service provider indicates whether a recipient of the communications services satisfactorily paid for the communications services.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

submitting a bid to an auction moderator via an online auction to segment a stream of data according to a profile ~~provide the communications services;~~

providing a segmentation service to the stream of data ~~the communications services;~~

receiving, at the auction moderator, a service provider rating from a recipient of the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ indicating whether the segmentation service was ~~communications services were~~ satisfactorily provided; and

providing a recipient rating to the auction moderator in which a service provider of the segmentation service indicates whether the recipient of the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ satisfactorily paid for the communications services.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 2, wherein receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving feedback regarding the recipient of the

segmentation service ~~communications services~~, the feedback indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the segmentation service ~~communications services~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 2, wherein receiving the service provider rating comprises receiving the rating from a client communications device associated with the recipient of the segmentation service ~~communications services~~.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 2, wherein providing the recipient rating comprises indicating the recipient's credit card accepted charges for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 2, further comprising causing display of the service provider rating during a future online auction to indicate that future segmentation services ~~communications services~~ will be satisfactorily provided.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein providing the communications services comprises:

receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol,

segmenting the first data stream into segments,

dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services,

receiving results of the subsequent processing services,

determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider,

grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service,

subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service,
receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service,
aggregating the results of the subsequent processing services and the subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream, and
communicating the second data stream via the communications network.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

auctioning a block of time of usage of a segmentation service ~~the communications services~~ that may be shared between multiple client communications devices;
receiving a bid at a processor for the block of time during an online auction;
segmenting streams of data according to the segmentation service ~~providing the communications services~~; and
providing a recipient rating at the processor in which a service provider of the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ indicates whether the recipient of the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ satisfactorily paid for the block of time.

9. (Cancel)

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, wherein the block of time comprises at least one of i) a maximum data transfer rate and ii) a minimum data transfer rate.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time between multiple recipients of the segmentation service ~~communications services~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time between multiple telephone numbers.
13. (Cancel)
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising sharing the block of time between the multiple client communications devices associated with multiple users.
15. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising negotiating with a group of recipients for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~, the group comprising recipients willing to pay for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ and recipients unwilling to pay for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~, wherein the recipients willing to pay for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ are permitted to sponsor the recipients unwilling to pay for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~.
16. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 15, wherein providing the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ comprises providing the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ to both recipients willing to pay for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ and recipients unwilling to pay for the segmentation service ~~communications services~~.
17. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising receiving at the auction moderator a service provider rating from the recipient of the segmentation service ~~communications services~~, the service provider rating indicating whether the recipient was satisfied with the segmentation service ~~communications services~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, further comprising presenting the service provider rating during a future online auction, wherein the service provider rating is used to inspire trust in other recipients that their future segmentation service ~~communications services~~ will be satisfactorily provided.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 8, wherein providing the segmentation service ~~communications services~~ comprises:

- receiving a first data stream comprising packets of data packetized according to a packet protocol,
- segmenting the first data stream into segments,
- dispersing the segments via a communications network for subsequent processing services,
- receiving results of the subsequent processing services,
- determining a subcontracted processing service is required from a different service provider,
- grouping together individual packets of data as a new segment that requires the subcontracted processing service,
- subcontracting the new segment to the different service provider to receive the subcontracted processing service,
- receiving a subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service,
- aggregating the results of the subsequent processing services and the subcontracted result of the subcontracted processing service into a second data stream, and
- communicating the second data stream via the communications network.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium storing processor executable instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

auctioning a block of time of usage of a segmentation service ~~the communications~~
~~services~~ that may be shared between multiple client communications devices;
receiving a bid at a processor for the block of time during an online auction;
segmenting streams of data according to the segmentation service ~~providing the~~
~~communications services~~; and
providing a recipient rating at the processor in which a service provider of the
segmentation service ~~communications services~~ indicates whether the recipient of the
segmentation service ~~communications services~~ satisfactorily paid for the block of time.